whether font preview data, which displays a representative character of a font selected by said font selecting means, has been stored;

display control means for controlling a display device so as to display, on a display screen, the representative character represented by the font preview data in response to a determination by said font preview data storage determination means that the font preview data has been stored; and

means for transmitting to the server a request to transmit the font preview data in response to a determination by said font preview data storage determination means that the font preview data has not been stored; and

said server including font preview data transmitting means for transmitting the font preview data to said client computer in response to the font preview data transmission request transmitted from said client computer.

23. (ONCE AMENDED) A client computer capable of communicating data with a server, comprising:

means for selecting a font;

font preview data storage determination means for determining whether font preview data, which displays a representative

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character of a font selected by said font selecting means, has been stored;

display control means for controlling a display device so as to display, on a display screen, the representative character represented by the font preview data in response to a determination by said font preview data storage determination means that the font preview data has been stored; and

means for transmitting to the server a request to transmit the font preview data in response to a determination by said font preview data storage determination means that the font preview data has not been stored.

24. (ONCE AMENDED) A server capable of communicating data with a client computer, comprising:

storage means for storing font preview data, said font preview data being a representative character of a font;

receiving means for receiving a request to transmit the font preview data transmitted from said client computer;

retrieval means for retrieving the font preview data in response to the request received by said receiving means from said storage means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the font preview data found by the retrieval means to said client computer.

25. (ONCE AMENDED) A method of sharing fonts in a system in which data can be communicated between a client computer and a server, comprising:

selecting a font at said client computer;

determining whether font preview data, which displays a representative character of a font selected by said font selecting means, has been stored at said client computer;

controlling a display device so as to display, on a display screen, the representative character represented by the font preview data in response to a determination by said determining step that the font preview data has been stored;

transmitting to said server a request to transmit the font preview data in response to a determination by said determining step that the font preview data has not been stored at said client computer; and

transmitting the font preview data from said server to said client computer in response to the request for font preview data transmitted from said client computer.

26. (ONCE AMENDED) A method of controlling a client computer to communicate data with a server, comprising:

selecting a font at said client computer;

determining whether font preview data, which displays a representative character of a font selected by said step of selecting a font, has been stored at said client computer;

controlling a display device so as to display, on a display screen, the representative character represented by the font preview data in response to a determination by said determining step that the font preview data has been stored at said client computer; and

transmitting to the server a request to transmit the font preview data in response to a determination by said determining step that the font preview data has not been stored.

27. (ONCE AMENDED) A method of controlling a server to communicate data with a client computer, comprising:

storing font preview data at said server, said font preview data being a representative character of a font;

receiving a request to transmit the font preview data transmitted from said client computer;

retrieving the font preview data in response to the request transmitted from said client computer; and

transmitting the font preview data found by said retrieving step to said client computer.

28. (ONCE AMENDED) A recording medium storing a program for controlling a client computer capable of communicating data with a server, said program:

enabling a user of said client computer to select a font;

causing said client computer to determine whether font preview data, which displays a representative character of a font selected by said user, has been stored at said client computer;

controlling a display device so as to display, on a display screen, the representative character represented by the font preview data in response to a determination that the font preview data has been stored at said client computer; and

causing said client computer to transmit to the server a request to transmit the font preview data in response to a determination that the font preview data has not been stored at said client computer.

29. (ONCE AMENDED) A server-readable recording medium storing a program for controlling a server capable of communicating data with a client computer, said program:

causing said server to store font preview data, said font preview data being a representative of a font character;

causing said server to receive a request to transmit the font preview data transmitted from said client computer;

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causing said server to retrieve the font preview data in response to the received request; and

causing said server to transmit the retrieved font preview data to said client computer.

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end